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CAPITOL 4-3121
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EIGHTY-SEVENTH CONGRESS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE
OF THE
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
ROOM 101, GEORGE WASHINGTON INN
WASHINGTON, D.C.

July 27, 1962

Honorable John E. Fogarty
Member of Congress
1235 House Office Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I desire to bring the following information to your attention as Chairman of the managers on the part of the House at the conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the bill H.R. 10904. I earnestly hope that you will not agree to any increases in the \$840.8 million appropriation for the National Institutes of Health approved by the House, and bring back in disagreement for separate House consideration any amendments insisted upon by the Senate conferees which would add funds to H.R. 10904 for NIH.

I believe such action is important at this time because of the present efforts of the Committee on Government Operations to secure much needed management improvements in the NIH grant programs. As you are undoubtedly aware, NIH agreed with the Committee more than a year ago on the necessity of improving its policies and procedures in this area. Unfortunately, the agency's actions to implement the steps it had agreed to take have lacked vigor and seriousness of purpose. If the Congress were now to increase the NIH appropriation at the rapid rate proposed by the Senate, it would suggest that the Congress condones the inefficiencies found by our Committee and would, consequently, impede the Committee's efforts to strengthen the management of these programs.

Most assuredly, I do not claim to be an authority on how much money should be spent for health research, and I have always supported the appropriation levels recommended by your Committee for the National Institutes of Health. These programs are, of course, very important. But looking at this matter from the perspective of

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the Committee charged with the responsibility of studying the extent to which Federal agencies operate economically and efficiently, we certainly ought to expect reasonable management procedures designed to insure that funds are being spent prudently and for the purposes intended by the Congress. This is all the more essential when we are spending huge sums to support research from which we can not see and measure the results.

On the basis of the NIH management weaknesses found by our studies, I am convinced that substantial amounts are being needlessly spent from present grants which could be used to support additional meritorious research and training. It is only reasonable that this money should be put to the productive support of additional projects before the Congress is called upon to appropriate still larger sums for NIH grants.

I will be pleased to furnish you any information you might wish in connection with our Committee's study of the administration of the NIH extramural programs.

With warm regards, I am

Sincerely,



L. H. Fountain, Chairman
Intergovernmental Relations Subcommittee

LHF:a

cc: Honorable Winfield K. Denton
Honorable Clarence Cannon
Honorable Melvin R. Laird
Honorable John Taber